

Christopher Newport University's Residence Hall Fire Response

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Overview

- ❑ First Response
- ❑ Student Population
- ❑ Campus Involvement
- ❑ Media/Public Relations
- ❑ Challenges
- ❑ What worked



Overview of Event

- ☐ Where?
 - ☐ When?
 - ☐ How?
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First Responses

- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Residence Life
- ☐ Police
- ☐ Administration
- ☐ University Relations
- ☐ Counseling



Managing the Students

- ☐ Timing Challenges
 - ☐ Immediate Needs
 - ☐ Communication
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Nuances of the Building

- ☐ 12 Month Contracts
- ☐ Ownership



Campus Involvement

- ☐ Athletics
 - ☐ University Relations
 - ☐ Plant Operations
 - ☐ Housing
 - ☐ Residence Life
 - ☐ Administration
 - ☐ Police
 - ☐ Counseling
 - ☐ Building Architects
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The Day After

- On Site
 - Foundation Control
 - Removing Property
 - Securing the Location



Points of Contact

- Student/Parent Information Meeting
 - Lodging
 - Necessities – financial support
 - Points of Contact – information sheets
 - Insurance Inquiries
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Communication

- ☐ Website – Updates and Donations
 - ☐ Cell Phones – devoted to incident response
 - ☐ Email
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Dispersal of Property

- Highly Salvageable v. Low Salvageable



Evaluation of the Building

☐ Rebuild

☐ Ernesto

☐ Demolish

☐ Reconstruct

Involvement of Administration

- ☐ Night of the Event
- ☐ Morning After the Event
- ☐ Long term



Challenges

- ❑ Student Needs v. Practicality
 - Financial decisions
 - Salvage companies
 - ❑ Build to Code – still can bite you
 - ❑ Communication – contact information
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What Worked

- ☐ Relationships
 - ☐ Staff
 - ☐ Independent operations knew their roles and integrated well
 - ☐ Constant follow up – hotel, fire department, students, press
 - ☐ Point person for student contact
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Media and Public Relations

- ☐ Involve right away
 - ☐ One University spokesperson
 - ☐ Decisions based in part on emotional needs
 - ☐ Information provided to limit speculation
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Coordination with Housing

Hopefully it's apparent!

Questions?

